TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

On September 21, 2005, Eugene Clair, patent attorney for the assignee Bendix CVS LLC spoke with Examiner Bradley T. King concerning the final office action of the present application. In the office action, the cited references and claims were discussed with respect to the feature of a passageway through the purge chamber of an air reservoir. Applicant's representative pointed out that the cited references showed the fluid flow as passing through the entire purge chamber in a random manner since it has no defined structure to directly communicate the air flow through the purge reservoir to the downstream reservoir. Mr. Clair and Mr. King discussed the existing wording in pending claims 20 and 25, suggesting that it may be possible to amend the claims to more clearly define that the passage structure through the purge reservoir is discrete and that it provides direct fluid communication with the downstream reservoir. Examiner King agreed to reconsider the amended claim language in a written response upon the applicants' request. The applicant respectfully presents the preceding amendments to claims 20 and 25 and 33 which recites claim language to more clearly define that the passage is a structural element that provides direct fluid communication through the purge chamber. The applicants respectfully suggest that the amended claims 20, 25 and 33 are allowable over the references of record.

REMARKS

The Office Action rejects claims 20, 22-31 and 33-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in light of Kojima USPN 4655801. The Office Action currently rejects claims 20, 22, 25-27 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in light of Thomas USPN 6391098. Claims 1 through 19 were previously subject to a restriction requirement and withdrawn from consideration. Claim 21 was previously cancelled.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 20, 22-31 and 33-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kojima USPN 4655801. It is asserted in the Office Action that the Kojima '801